

DOW, HOPE, & FAITH

The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a peak 52 times in 52 weeks in 2014. The DOW surpassed 18,000 for the first time in history. Though one may be fearful of the stock market from the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis, one has to look at the spectacular stock market run up since. Hope and faith may be the reason why the markets have reached a peak in the domestic markets.

Hope is a worthy 4-letter word. Our country sustained the worst Financial Crisis in our lives and 2nd worst of all time in the United States. Hope is what propelled us to get to work and produce more, perhaps spend more, and buy more. This sense of hope was not only a governmental stimulus but a country that didn't forget to run marathons, celebrate the holidays, and continue to work for less money or even part-time.

In April of 2009 my wife and I ran the Boston Marathon. Our Dow Jones Industrial Average just fell to a bottom on March 6, 2009 of 6,626. I was amazed to see tens of thousands of marathon runners spend thousands of dollars in travel expenses, to run 26.2 miles, and open up their wallet at the Marathon Expo. Today the Dow is set to close above 18,000. Can you believe that we have almost tripled our Dow in less than 6 years? I can. I believe in Hope.

This last year my friend and former roommate won the Boston Marathon. After college I ran for Adidas and lived the lifestyle of an American long distance runner. When Meb Keflezighi woke at 4 AM before this year's Boston Marathon he and his wife googled the four children's names whom died in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and he printed them on his racing bib. He was a long shot to win but hope kept him going. He ran for those that died.

In 2009 I was, and still am, a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch in Santa Fe and I saw first hand what happens to the financial services industry during a meltdown and crisis. The only thing we had to move us forward was HOPE. It was hard to continue my marathon training but I kept going. This year I ran my 13th marathon at the Bank of America Chicago marathon in 3 hours. I've run a personal best of 2 Hours & 32 minutes in 2007 before the Financial Crisis. I hope to run another marathon in 2015 and have no plans on slowing down at the age of 34.

Will the Dow slow down? That is a question one can answer with FAITH. We in the financial service industry have faith the Dow will continue to set new records. Will there be 52 new records in 2015? We hope and have faith that there will be numerous DOW record closing days in 2015 and years to come